

**EXAMINER'S NOTE**

1. The amendment filed on 04/25/2011 has been entered and considered.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Grant Foster on 05/06/2011.

The application is amended as follows (amending claims 1, 21, 33, 38, and 55):

1. (Amended) A vascular closure assembly, comprising:  
an anchor;  
a collagen;  
a suture coupled to the anchor and extending through the collagen;  
a suture locking mechanism comprising a housing and at least first and second locking posts extending cantilevered from the housing;  
the suture locking mechanism being rotatable between a non-locked position and a locked position;  
wherein the suture is capable of movement when the suture locking mechanism is in the non-locked position and the suture at least partially wraps around the first and second locking posts and is relatively incapable of movement when the suture locking mechanism is in the locked position;

wherein rotating movement of the suture locking mechanism is configured to occur upon deployment of the anchor and the collagen.

21. (Amended) A vascular closure device, comprising:

an anchor;

a collagen;

a locking device; and

a suture coupled to the anchor and extending through the collagen and the locking device, wherein the locking device comprises:

a housing; and

at least two cantilevered locking posts extending from the housing;

wherein the locking device being rotatable between a first orientation and a second orientation, the first orientation providing the suture with a relatively non-tortuous path defined for the suture through the locking device, and

the second orientation providing the suture with a relatively tortuous path defined at least in part between the at least two locking posts;

wherein rotating movement of the locking device is configured occur upon deployment of the anchor and the collagen.

33. (Amended) A vascular closure device, comprising:

an anchor;

a collagen;

a suture; and

a suture locking assembly, the suture locking assembly including a housing and at least two cantilevered locking posts extending from the housing;

wherein the suture is coupled to the anchor and extends through the collagen and the suture locking assembly in a space defined at least in part between the at least two locking posts, the suture locking assembly being rotatable between unlocked and locked positions;

wherein rotating movement of the suture locking assembly is configured occur upon deployment of the anchor and the collagen.

38. (Amended) A vascular closure assembly, comprising:

- an anchor;
- a collagen;
- a suture coupled to the anchor and extending through the collagen;
- a locking element comprising a housing and at least first and second cantilevered locking posts extending from the housing;

the locking element being rotatable between a first orientation and a second orientation;

in the first orientation, the locking element provides a non-tortuous pathway for the suture that is defined at least in part between the first and second locking posts such that the suture can move relative to the housing; and

in the second orientation, the locking element provides a tortuous pathway for the suture that is defined at least in part between the first and second locking posts such that the suture is relatively immobile relative to the housing;

wherein rotating movement of the locking element is configured to occur upon deployment of the anchor and the collagen.

55. (Amended) A vascular closure assembly, comprising:

- an anchor;
- a collagen;
- a suture coupled to the anchor and extending through the collagen;
- a locking device comprising a housing and at least two cantilevered locking posts extending from the housing, the locking device being rotatable between a first position and a second position;
- in the first position, the suture can move relative to the locking device; and
- in the second position, the suture is relatively immobile relative to the locking device;

wherein rotating movement of the locking device is configured to occur upon deployment of the anchor and the collagen.

***Reasons for Allowance***

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose or suggest, in combination with other limitations of the claims, a suture locking mechanism comprising a housing and at least first and second locking posts extending cantilevered from the housing; the suture locking mechanism being rotatable between a non-locking position and a locking position; wherein rotating movement of the suture locking mechanism is configured to occur upon deployment of the anchor and the collagen.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JING RUI OU whose telephone number is (571)270-5036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, UYEN (JACKIE) HO can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 3773  
05/06/2011

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